

Teen Driver Task Force Meeting – Meeting Minutes

3/22/17

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Public Safety Building – DMV

OHS Conference Room – 2nd Floor

Dover, DE

Attendees:

Jana Simpler, Office of Highway Safety
Kim Chesser, Office of Highway Safety
Sarah Cattie, Office of Highway Safety
Kami Beers, DMV
Scott Vien, DMV
Michael Wagner, DOE – Driver Education
Lt. Tracy Condon, DSP
Anthony Kwoka, DOE – Driver Education
Pete Booker - SmartDrive

The meeting began with a presentation by Jana Simpler to several members of the task force for the Governor's Team Excellence Award. The award, which can only be presented to state employees, was based on the task force's work in relation to the curriculum update, video for driver's education teachers and the "Crossing the Line" video creation.

Sarah Cattie brought up the 50 hour parent driving requirement and the proof that it's been completed (log) – it is currently an honor system. What should we do to improve it?

- *Michael Wagner* – It does matter, it's important. We need to encourage students/parents to turn it in. Can we offer some kind of incentive to get it completed and turned in?
- *Anthony Kwoka* – does the data support the need for the log to be turned in? Are we seeing more incidents of crashes with newly licensed drivers or after age 18?
- **ACTION ITEM** – Sarah will put together 2016 crash stats for teen drivers. Based on these findings, the group can decide how they want to pursue this issue.
- *Kim Chesser* – crashes will show lower for new drivers because they have restrictions – limited by hours, no cell phone, etc. Older drivers – over 18 do not have those restrictions, so their crash numbers rise.
- *Pete Booker* – Parents are in the car watching the kids, but not always following up with the documentation.
- *Scott Vien* – there has been something lost with the face to face contact as opposed to the parents just using the app. But parents could use the DMV Road Ready app to use to use in terms of the GDL parent log.
- *Kim Chesser* – is it possible to have a checklist or orientation for parents to watch when they come to the DMV at the start of the driving process? It might slow down the DMV process, but they could get the info they need quickly and the importance of working with the teen driver.
- *Scott Vien* – DMV would be ok with a video for parents to watch when they come into the DMV with their teen driver.

- *Michael Wagner* – would it also be possible to approach insurance companies to request a percentage discount if parents complete the 50 hour log?

ACTION ITEM – Request a meeting in the future with the Insurance Commissioner to discuss the possibility of a discount. Sarah will work on the data and be in contact with the task force to move forward.

ACTION ITEM - Sarah will come up with some options for a video/orientation at DMV to present to the task force.

ACTION ITEM – Michael will send an email directly to the driver's education teachers reminding them of the importance of the log. A future plan can include addressing the parents directly of students going into the driver's education program reiterating their requirement to drive with their student and completing the log.

Other thoughts about this topic:

- Use of the Road Ready app would make completing the log much easier. The app is sponsored by State Farm, which might pose an issue regarding the insurance discount idea.
- Could drivers have their GDL suspended if they don't complete the log? Issue with that is that they would still have the license in hand – and this punishes the GDL driver, not the parent who didn't complete the log.
- The DOE is looking to develop electronic blue certificates in the coming years and would like to work with DMV to create an interface to make retrieving records easier at the DMV.

Sarah also brought up the GDL Parent Orientation video/online-program. We've had good success with people visiting the orientation program – between February 2016 - February 2017 - 6,327 users have completed the training. OHS will be updating this program as it has been a few years. Are there any updates that anyone can suggest?

- **ACTION ITEM** – Sarah will send the GDL link to the committee members for review/comment

Individual Member Updates:

Kami Beers – The DMV has updated the Teen Driver website. Please take a look and provide feedback, etc.

Scott Vien – Seconding Kami's request to check the Teen Driver website.

Michael Wagner – He's working on updates to the Driver's Education exam. Wants to make sure that the questions match what the students will see on their DMV exam. He will send the completed exam to DMV for sign off.

Lt. Tracy Condon – She is working on some initiatives that relate to national programs. April 8-9 is I-95 Drive to Save Lives. This will be in support of April as National Driving Awareness Month. In October, Teen Driver Safety week is October 15-21. DSP will be planning an enforcement event for October 20-21. More information to come.

- Sarah mentioned that if officers/troopers are citing GDL drivers for cell phone use, it needs to be cited properly. If it's not cited as GDL, then the DMV is not notified.

- **ACTION ITEM** – OHS will create a memo to law enforcement to remind them of the GDL-specific no texting citation and will involve our Law Enforcement Liaison in getting it to the appropriate groups.

Anthony Kwoka – April 26th at Dover Downs is the Driver's Education competition. This will involve a written test, a driving test and a skills test. This event has been happening for 27 years. Students who win get \$ 1500 scholarships.

- **ACTION ITEM** – Michael will send a reminder to the group members about the competition.
- There is also the potential that driver's education will not be funded based on the Governor's budget. There are 12 teachers in limbo about their employment.

Pete Booker – Smart Drive has lots of activities happening in the coming months. They are working with Kia for their program BRAKES (Be Responsible and Keep Everyone Safe). There are 3 deals in Delaware – they are hoping to coordinate a 4 hour program with 8 cars. This will be an event for licensed drivers. The PROMise is in full swing – student groups are promoting the program to get money for their after prom parties. This year already, more than 3,000 students have signed the pledge to be responsible drivers. Additional info about Smart Drive:

- Sussex Academy is a new school that has joined activities this year.
- Smart Drive also provides a \$1,000 scholarship to students based on an essay submission.
- Sponsors are metric driven – so there will be pilot districts trying a fee for service model in the future.
- April 13th – SmartDrive will be at Caesar Rodney High School for a Distracted Driving event.

Kim Chesser – I'm very happy with all of the improvements this task force has been able to accomplish and the improvements we've made to the program. I'm thankful for everyone's passion and still available to help as needed.

ACTION ITEM – Sarah will work on the Annual Report, due to the General Assembly by June 30.

The next Teen Driver Task Force Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19th at 9 am in the OHS Conference Room. An invitation will follow via Outlook.